(c) Efforts for increasing density of Post Offices throughout the country including Jharkhand Circle by way of opening new Post Offices is an ongoing exercise. Post Offices are opened in a phased manner on the basis of need and justification as per prescribed norms and availability of resources.

Eleventh Plan proposals and priorities of NEC

653. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Plan proposals and priorities of NEC are finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether NEC has finalized the inclusion of all the pending schemes of Assam for execution during Eleventh Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has communicated to the North Eastern Council (NEC) on 7.02.2008 that its projected outlay for the Eleventh Plan is Rs. 7394 crore and has directed it to work out the sectoral allocations of this outlay for the Eleventh Plan period. NEC is working on formulating its Eleventh Plan proposals.

(d) to (f) Due to NEC's large committed liabilities of projects from previous plans, the pending schemes from Assam for execution during the Eleventh Plan will be included based on the approved sectoral allocations of its projected outlay for the Eleventh Plan period.

Transit journey and movement of goods from NE States

654. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any attempt to introduce transit journey and movement of goods from North-Eastern States to Kolkata by road, by train and by river ways;

(b) if so, the outcome of the attempts in details; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Government of India has regularly raised with the Government of Bangladesh the issue of transit by road, by train and by riverways to the North-Eastern States at various levels. While there has been some progress with regard to transit via the Padma to Dhubri and beyond along the Brahmaputra, transit through the Barak and other rivers is still to be agreed. For passengers, but not for goods, there is no through traffic but buses run between Kolkata and Dhaka and between Dhaka and Agartala. Transit by rail has not been agreed to so far. The dialogue is on on-going.